

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the Committee on Science and Technology, effective today.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DARLENE HOOLEY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, Capitol, H-232,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, Thank you for the tremendous opportunity to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Due to the pending assignment, please accept my resignation from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee effective Tuesday, June 10.

It was an honor to serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee under the tremendous leadership of Chairman Oberstar. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has provided me with a useful forum to help shape our country's investment in our roadways and transportation systems. I look forward to continuing to following the success of the committee and offering my assistance wherever possible.

It is with great enthusiasm and dedication that I look forward to serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee. My strongest desire as a Member of Congress is to improve the lives of the people I represent, and serving on this committee will afford me invaluable opportunities to make a demonstrative and positive difference in their lives.

I appreciate your attention to my resignation, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

DORIS O. MATSUI,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, Capitol Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Please consider this resignation effective today.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOYLE,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: At the request of the Speaker and to provide a slot for a newly-elected colleague, I resign my membership on the Financial Services Committee.

Very truly yours,

JIM MARSHALL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6028) to authorize law enforcement and security assistance, and assistance to enhance the rule of law and strengthen civilian institutions, for Mexico and the countries of Central America, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6028

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Declarations of policy.

Subtitle A—Law Enforcement and Security Assistance

Sec. 111. Purposes of assistance.

Sec. 112. Authorization of assistance.

Sec. 113. Activities supported.

Sec. 114. Limitation on assistance.

Sec. 115. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Assistance to Enhance the Rule of Law and Strengthen Civilian Institutions

Sec. 121. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 122. Authorization of assistance.

Sec. 123. Activities supported.

Sec. 124. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Declarations of policy.

Subtitle A—Law Enforcement and Security Assistance

Sec. 211. Purposes of assistance.

Sec. 212. Authorization of assistance.

Sec. 213. Activities supported.

Sec. 214. Limitation on assistance.

Sec. 215. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Assistance to Enhance the Rule of Law and Strengthen Civilian Institutions

Sec. 221. Authorization of assistance.

Sec. 222. Activities supported.

Sec. 223. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Conditions on provision of assistance.

Sec. 302. Limitations on provision of assistance.

Sec. 303. Limitation on monitoring.

Sec. 304. Exemption from prohibition on assistance for law enforcement forces.

Sec. 305. Relationship to other authority.

Sec. 306. Rule of construction.

TITLE IV—SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Sec. 401. Report on reduction of drug demand in the United States.

Sec. 402. Reduction of southbound flow of illegal weapons.

Sec. 403. Reduction of southbound flow of illegal precursor chemicals and bulk-cash transfers.

Sec. 404. Report.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Implement the Merida Initiative.

Sec. 502. Metrics and oversight mechanisms.

Sec. 503. Report.

Sec. 504. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 505. Sunset.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees”—

(A) means—

(i) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) for purposes of titles IV and V, includes the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(2) COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.—The term “countries of Central America” means